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Message Text

SECRET

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43
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 H-03 ACDA-19 OMB-01 IO-14

AEC-11 AECE-00 OIC-04 DRC-01 /166 W
---------- 092992
R 071612Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0275
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T BONN 02067

NATO/PARIS ALSO FOR MILLER
VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, GW
SUBJECT: MBFR: DATA AND DIVISION OF LABOR

1. FRG ATTITUDE TOWARD DATA ISSUES STEMS FROM DIVERGENT POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. DURING FEB 4 TALKS WITH ACDA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MILLER, ROTH AND RUTH STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY ALLIANCE DEVELOPMENT OF "COMMON DATA BASE", SAYING SUCH INFO WOULD BE ESSENTIAL IN MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AND INEVITABLE PUBLIC RELATIONS DIALOGUE WITH SOVIETS. WHILE EXPRESSING SOME UNDERSTANDING FOR US CONCERNS IN STATE 21244, GERMANS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT BRITISH DESIRE TO INCLUDE REFERENCES TO SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP IN ALLIED ARGUMENTATION. IN DEFENDING THIS POSITION, GERMANS MAKE THE POINTS REPORTED IN VIENNA 967-PARA 4 AND FURTHER STRESS INCREASED FRG PRESS
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ARTICLES ON "OMINOUS" SOVIET BUILDUP. GERMAN MEDIA

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HAVE ALSO REPORTED THIS WEEK ON ALLEGED INCREASE IN SOVIET CONSCRIPTION PERIOD.

2. DESPITE ABOVE POSITION, FRG SO FAR HAS SHOWN RELUCTANCE TO ENGAGE IN DETAILED ALLIED DISCUSSION OF AIR DATA (USNATO 591-PARA 2). THIS HESITATION PROBABLY STEMS FROM WISH TO AVOID DISTRACTING ALLIED ATTENTION FROM MBFR-I FOCUS ON US/SOVIET GROUND FORCES AND FROM DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE ALL OPTION III CONCESSIONS FOR MBFR-II DRIVE TOWARD COMMON CEILING OBJECTIVE. GERMANS ARE CONCERNED THAT GIV*NG AWAY PART OF OPTION III IN MBFR-I MIGHT LEAD TO EVEN GREATER AIR/ NUCLEAR CONCESSIONS IN MBFR-II. .

3. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE FRG SUPPORT FOR US POSITIONS ON THESE DATA ISSUES, WORKING WITH DEFMIN EXPERTS AS WELL AS POLITICAL TYPES. BUT GIVEN AMB ROTH'S "PROFOUND SKEPTICISM OVER ALL DATA", GERMANS ARE LIKELY TO ADDRESS THESE MATTERS ESSENTIALLY IN TERMS OF THEIR POLITICAL GOALS AND CONCERNS IN MBFR RATHER THAN AS TECHNICAL ISSUES.

4. AS TO DIVISION OF LABOR POINT MENTIONED IN BONN 1384, EMBOFF MADE THE POINTS IN STATE 22412 TO RUTH, OBSERVING THAT US AND PRESUMABLY FRG WOULD FEEL NEED TO THINK THROUGH ALL MAJOR MBFR ISSUES. RUTH EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR THIS POSITION. WE BELIEVE HIS COMMENTS ON DIVISION OF LABOR WERE PROBABLY DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO REGISTER INTENSE GERMAN INTEREST IN LINKAGE ISSUE.
HILLENBRAND

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